**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On page 8, replace the paragraph beginning on line 16, with the following:

- - In the second embodiment, unlike in the first embodiment, a fiber connecting method is provided in which the fibers are not set at an angle but a uniform exit light beam can be obtained in accordance with the characteristics of each fiber and each laser beam. Specifically, in FIG. ~~2~~ 6, consider incident light beams and exit light beams 64, 65, 66 of an optical fiber 44 assuming the center of the fibers. Assume that the incident light beams are such that the exit beams 65, 66 of high-order mode represent a main portion of the exit light while the exit light beam 64 of low-order mode represents a small proportion. The low-order mode is defined as a mode in which the incident light is radiated in straight and the high-order mode as a mode of the light diffused and reflected in different directions. In order to obtain an exit light beam of high-order mode, the light that has entered the light coupler 34 shown in FIG. 3 is required to have an angle to the direction of the incident light beam. For obtaining an exit light beam of low-order mode, on the other hand, the light beams incident to the light couplers 31 to 37 are required to have no angle. - -